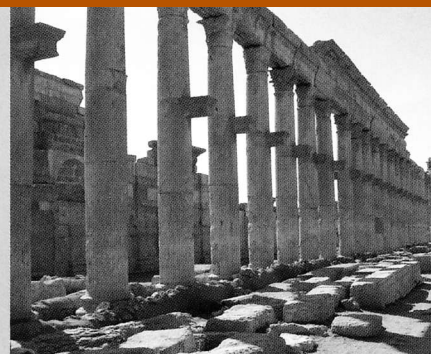


ACCESS AUDIT in religious buildings and public spaces in OLD DAMASCUS CITY SYRIA

Ismawi Hj Zen
Asiah Abdul Rahim
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KAED Universal Design Unit (KUDU)



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PREFACE

Heritage buildings in the Islamic Empire Era have been known due to its significant contribution and heritage trails of previous Islamic rulers of its time. The typology of these heritage buildings are according to function and usage but most of it are consider public building that accommodates the livelihood of traders and merchants during the trades era. Damascus is the capital of the first Islamic empire namely the Umayyad after the seat of government was moved from Madinah al-Munawwarah. Currently Damascus is the capital of modern day Syria. Due to its importance to the Islamic world it has high heritage value. It is now a focus of visit by many people from all over the world. The city contains many areas and buildings which reflect the milestones of Islamic history. However, a section of the society consisting of people with various disabilities and the elderly are unable to visit and appreciate these legacies. In order to address these apparent deficiencies, a study was carried out using access audit methodology. Four case studies areas were selected based on them being representative of the various eras in the fabric of Islamic civilization in Syria. The data were collected based on observation and simulation. These data were then tabulated and analysed to arrive at findings which were descriptively elucidated. These finally formed guidelines to the effort in making heritage areas and buildings universally accessible for all.